

the bottom of the cliff, resided for many years, it is not generally known. "Well, s'posin' I did! It happened poles. But this recession cannot be accurately described as a "drought."

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water sheds from injuries detrimental to the highest use of the valley lands.  
Sums amounting to millions in the aggregate have been paid to the government for lands in the semi-arid region which were understood to be fit for agriculture without irrigation. The experience of years, during which settlers and their families have suffered the severest hardships, demonstrates that they can only be made productive by the artificial application of water. It is an act of simple justice to ask the government to devote a portion of the money received from the sale of these lands to the practical investigation of means for their reclamation, from surface streams, storm waters or underground supplies. We earnestly urge speedy action by Congress in this direction.

#### AN ARID LAND POLICY.

The time has come when the work of developing an arid land policy, on broad National and State lines, can no longer be delayed. The number of plans suggested for the solution of the problem are legion. Some of them have received endorsement from commercial and political conventions. Believing that harmony of action is vital, that wide discussion and patient investigation are indispensable in arriving at wise conclusions, we earnestly favor the adoption of the following plan: There shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee of the Irrigation Congress a Commission for each State and Territory in the arid or semi-arid regions, consisting of five members each, who shall be competent and experienced men. These Commissions shall at once enter upon a careful investigation of the conditions existing in each of their States or Territories, and then formulate plans looking to the adoption of a national policy to be supplemented by appropriate local laws.

The results of the investigations of these several Commissions shall be submitted to the next Irrigation Congress, at a time to be designated by the Executive Committee, not exceeding one year hence, and upon these reports the final and definite declarations of the people of the Western States and Territories may be based. By this means we hope within a reasonable time to suggest a satisfactory irrigation policy to the Nation and to the States and Territories, and we hereby declare our purpose to erect it upon broad foundations of justice and equity, with due regard for the rights of both labor and capital.

#### STATE LEGISLATION.

We endorse the principle of the district irrigation law of California, commonly known as the "Wright Law," as a wise step in the direction of the public ownership of irrigation works. While we do not assert that it is suited to the needs of unsettled localities, or that it cannot be improved in some of its minor details, we do declare that experience has demonstrated its usefulness, its fairness and its economy. The need of State supervision of local districts is, however, apparent, and States that may hereafter adopt it should provide for this important feature, and we recommend that it be adopted by all States, where private irrigation works, covering land not a part of the public domain, may exist.

We analyze each State which embraces any part of the arid domain, and which has not already provided for irrigation supervision and engineering, to do so at its next legislative session, and to vigorously prosecute the work of investigating the extent to which further irrigation work can be carried on with success and profit.

#### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

The presence in this Congress of the representative of the neighboring republic of Mexico, which we gratefully acknowledge, reminds us that international questions may sometimes arise in relation to irrigation, and we now declare that whenever this occurs we shall favor their settlement on terms that shall be just and equitable to all concerned.

#### THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE.

To deal with the arid public domain is one of the mighty tasks of the future. It means not only the conquest of a new agricultural empire and a tremendous contribution to the national wealth of the future, but it involves the development of new forms of civilization and will give new life to popular institutions. It is a high and sacred trust, and in so far as it may become the peculiar concern of Western men, they will be true to its great obligations. But they approach the matter in no spirit of petty sectionalism. They invite the co-operation of all their countrymen, East as well as West, North as well as South. While mining and its kindred employments are vastly important to the Western States, directly and indirectly, the irrigation industry is and must ever be their supreme interest. Under just laws and proper national encouragement it will add new lustre to the American name.

The State Bureau of Immigration desires to direct the particular attention of the people of Nevada to that portion of the foregoing declaration which provides for the appointment of State Commissions, charged with the duty of formulating plans for future irrigation laws, which is found under the head *An Arid Land Policy*.

In accordance with this plan, the National Executive Committee of the Irrigation Congress appointed the following Commission for Nevada, consisting of five members, the National Committeeman for the State being one of the five and *ex-officio* Chairman of the Commission, to-wit:

Hon. J. E. Jones, Chairman - Carson City, Nevada  
L. H. Taylor, Secretary - Reno, Nevada  
W. C. Pitt, Treasurer - Lovelock, Nevada  
Gen. R. M. Clarke - Carson City, Nevada  
Jas. Newlands, Jr. - Dayton, Nevada

The following, from the National Executive Committee, will give a very fair idea of the work contemplated to be done by the above Commission:

The declaration of the next Irrigation Congress will be of a dual character. First, there will be embodied in the form of a bill for presentation at Washington our plan for national legislation, covering the subject of interstate waters, the management of forests and pasture lands, the future disposition of the irrigable lands in the arid public domain, and the building of irrigation works by the Government, in case such a policy is favored.

Second, there will be an address to the Governors and Legislatures of the arid States and Territories, containing our suggestions for a code of local laws aiming at the adoption of uniform legislation and system of administration. It will be the duty of State Commissions to study these subjects, and their reports, rendered to the next Irrigation Congress, will voice the views of their respective States in regard to national and local policies suitable to encourage the reclamation and settlement of the arid West. These policies must be based on fundamental principles enunciated in the Los Angeles declaration. It is expected that State Commissions will patiently hear and consider the views of any citizens of their States and that they will encourage the widest discussion on the part of press and people up to the time their reports are finally and definitely agreed upon. It is also expected that each Commission shall forward promptly to all other Commissions and to the Chairman and Secretary of the National Committee, copies of all suggestions submitted to them by their constituents, so that every Commission will have considered the whole ground before submitting reports to the next Irrigation Congress.

In answer to the question as to the best form of procedure for State Commissions to adopt, the following suggestions are offered:

- First, elect a secretary, as there will be much correspondence.
- Second, appoint sub-committees to consider various branches of a subject.
- Third, ascertain the amount of arid land in the State or Territory and, as near as possible, how it is divided between irrigable, pasture and forest land.
- Fourth, consider the available water supplies and the manner in which they will be handled—i. e., simple diversion, storage, artesian, etc.
- Fifth, compare existing State laws with those of other States and foreign countries. (See "Abstract of Irrigation Law," issued by Bureau of Inquiry, Agricultural Department, Washington, D. C., for State laws; also, Wm. Ham, Hall's California reports for French, Spanish and old Roman laws.)

With this material well in hand, the Commission will be ready to consider National and State policies with reference both to general conditions and the peculiar requirements of their own localities.

We earnestly recommend a study of the Wyoming law as a model in the matter of just and rigid supervision and administration.

It is certainly desirable for the Commissions to get down to earnest work as speedily as possible. Their reports should be perfected not later than July 1, 1894.

The State Bureau of Immigration urges the people rally to the support of the Commission, and to communicate their ideas on the subject of irrigation legislation, the end that their report to the next Irrigation Congress shall do equal and exact justice to all.

The future of irrigation in Nevada, and depending upon it the future growth of the State, hangs very largely on the effectiveness with which this Commission perform its duties.

Without the cordial support of the people it cannot hope to succeed, but with it, it cannot fail.

The question of a place for holding the next session of the Irrigation Congress was discussed at Los Angeles but was finally referred to the Chairman and Secretary of the National Executive Committee. The Nevada delegation, on behalf of the people of the State, extend an invitation to hold it in Carson City.

It is the opinion of the Bureau of Immigration, and of friends of the State at home and abroad, that if the Congress could be held in Nevada during the year 1894, shortly after the closing of the Midwinter Fair, it would result in more good for the State at large than anything that has ever occurred, or than anything else that could be done in the way of disseminating a knowledge of its resources, and it is earnestly hoped that the people, realizing this fact, will give their hearty support to those who have already made a good beginning in this direction.

J. E. JONES, Surveyor General,  
R. L. HORTON, State Controller,  
ORVIS RING, State Supt. of Schools,  
State Board of Immigration  
J. E. JONES, President.  
ORVIS RING, Secretary.

I cheerfully and heartily approve the above address of the people of our State, and sincerely trust they will render the State Board every possible assistance in this laudable undertaking.

ROSWELL K. COLCORD, Governor

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